## NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



## Office of Public Information

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## Omaha Judge Gary Randall Appointed to National Task Force on Judicial Branch Funding

Douglas County District Court Judge Gary Randall has been appointed to the American Bar Association (ABA) Task Force on Preservation of the Justice system. Randall is the only sitting judge on the task force and represents state court judges throughout the U.S. Other members include individuals from Washington, D.C. to Oakland, California; from the public and the private sector.

The Justice System Task Force was established by ABA President Steve Zack in 2010 to study the fiscal crisis facing state and local courts in the United States, including closing of courts and personnel cuts, causing extensive court case delays. The task force's initial efforts focused on raising awareness of the insufficient funding of the judicial branch of government. The underfunding of the justice system is widely considered to be the most critical issue facing the legal profession and the public in assuring the freedoms guaranteed by American society.

According to Judge Randall, "Court underfunding resulting from state budget crises threatens citizens' access to the Courts. Our task force is charged with finding innovative ways for Courts to continue to effectively serve the public in this new environment."

The Justice System Task Force met during the ABA's February meeting in New Orleans where Judge Randall participated in the discussions. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the continued threat that courts face from governmental underfunding and to identify possible strategies for responding to that threat.

In analyzing the work of the committee, Judge Randall remarked, "When the judiciary is underfunded, the courts cannot provide the services the public deserves from the system. I'm honored to be asked to be part of the solution to this problem."

Click <u>here</u> to view Judge Randall's Judicial Profile. If you would like a full resolution copy of the photo in Judge Randall's Judicial Profile, please email <u>Janet Bancroft</u>.

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